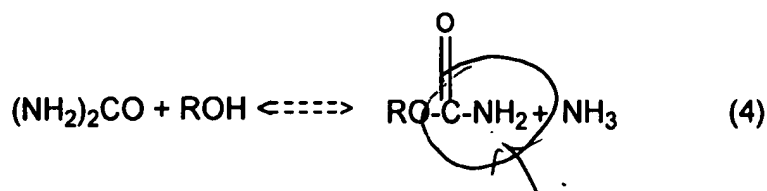


In SPECIFICATION of the supplementary amendment of page 2, delete the section (a chemical equation) at line 8 and insert therefor:



Reasons for Allowance

The present invention is directed to a process for the production of dimethyl. The closest prior art of record is US patent application 6,392,078 (Ryu *et al.*), which discloses a process for the production of dialkyl carbonates comprising feeding urea and primary alcohol in the presence of $R_2Sn(OCH_3)_2$ complex catalysts. This process is related but patentably distinct to the process disclosed in the instant application, wherein the water and ammonium carbamate impurities in the feed are removed in a prereactor. The water is reacted with urea in the feed to produce ammonium carbamate, which is decomposed along with the ammonium carbamate originally in the feed to ammonia and carbon dioxide. These two steps are the true inventive steps in the instant application. The prior art has the same assignee as the instant application but have no Obvious Double Patenting found. Therefore, claims 4-9 are allowed.

Telephone Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yong Chu whose telephone number is 571-272-5759. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 3:30 pm EST.

The supplementary amendment. page 2 on 02/09/2006

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1: Insert as the first sentence:

This application claims the benefit of provisional application 60/558,838 filed 03/12/2004.

Page 7:

Delete the section of the specification (a chemical equation) at lines 14-16 and insert therefor:

